

Rail-wheel Optimisation Project

3155. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have taken up a project called "Rail-wheel optimisation"; and
- (b) if so, the details regarding cost of the project, and by when it is going to be completed and commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Railways are participating in a joint research project of the UIC (International Union of Railways) on Rail-wheel optimisation. The project commenced in year 2000, is expected to cost approx. US \$ 5.6 million and is likely to be completed in 4-5 years time. Indian Railways has agreed to pay US \$ 1 million for the project. Other participants include Spoornet (South African Railways), the US Deptt. of Transport and the European Union.

Extension of Railways in tribal areas

3156. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the proposals received by Government from various States, up to February, 2001 for extension of Railways;
- (b) the names of States and of rail routes for which demands have been made by States especially in tribal areas;
- (c) when such demand was first submitted to Government; and
- (d) the action taken in respect of each demand, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.